

The Rocky Hill Town Council held a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Mayor Henry Vasel called the Budget Workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance: Deputy Mayor Nadine Bell, Councilor Meg Casasanta, Councilor Joe Kochanek, Councilor Tim Moriarty, and Councilor Cathy Vargas. Also present: Town Manager Guy Scaife and Finance Director John Mehr.

Those absent: Councilor Guy Drapeau, Councilor Bill MacDonald and Councilor Frank Szeps.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### Public Comment

Mayor Vasel asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Marilyn Ridolfo, Cold Spring Road, R.H., said she has been on the Board of the Hundred Club of Connecticut for the last eight years and she has been a member of this club for the last fifteen years, which she is thrilled about and also honored to be a part of. This club had been formed over fifty years ago by a gentleman to raise money for families of prison guards, Police Officers and firefighters who are killed in the Line of Duty. A stipend is giving to the surviving spouse and children's college educations are paid for, etc. The first female President of this, Gerri Roberts, is on Wethersfield's Town Council, and Marilyn Ridolfo believes she is married to the former Police Chief of Cromwell, Ed Brymer. Marilyn Ridolfo said she was present this evening for the purposes of the RHPD and the RHFD when she had found out that they were going to be one of the subjects of the budget this evening. It is very heartwrenching to have to deal with a family who has lost a loved one in the Line of Duty. She told the Town Council to please keep in mind that the Police Officers and firefighters are putting their lives on the line when they go out every single day, twenty-four hours per day and seven days per week. She asked the Town Council to please not scrimp on the areas when it comes to the firefighters and Police Officers and to give these servants, who are dedicated and wonderful, whatever they want. Mayor Vasel said he has been a member of the Hundred Club for almost thirty years.

Mayor Vasel asked if anyone else from the public wished to speak and no one else did.

#### Budget Workshop

##### A. Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Mayor Vasel said they would begin with Community Development. Jim Sollmi (Director of Community Development Services) referred to MS4 Stormwater – Mapping. This is a requirement from the EPA that is passed off to the Connecticut State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to administer. It is a mandate that is unfunded. They aren't sure where this permit is going to land and CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) has tried to block a lot of these things. The \$25,000 is an absolute minimum that they feel they should do to show an effort on the Town's part that they are attempting to conform to this

mapping requirement. All of the outfalls of Rocky Hill would be mapped and these would have to be shown on a GIS map as a minimum requirement.

Councilor Vargas asked if the \$25,000 will take care of whatever needs to be done. Jim Sollmi said this will be a start for the mapping requirements that this new permit is requiring them to do and this will be an ongoing project. They will hopefully find out where this will land next year and they will have to keep coming back to get additional funding if they need it. Councilor Vargas confirmed that work will be performed to use the \$25,000 and that it won't be sitting there for the future. Jim Sollmi said it won't be sitting there. Councilor Vargas asked if they are assuming that they will have at least \$25,000 in the budget next year for Capital Improvements going forward. Jim Sollmi said this might be a revised number because they don't know where this is going to land.

Councilor Kochanek asked if this theoretically will be \$350,000 the way he sees it now. Steve Sopelak (Town Engineer) said they got together with a bunch of colleagues (Town Engineers and Public Works Directors, etc.) from local municipalities and they came up with sixty different components to this. Rocky Hill's estimate was \$750,000 to roll this out. There will be one to two years to do this. Four years will be given to have the mapping done of the Town's entire drainage system and to get this on GIS. This has been going back and forth between COST (Connecticut Council of Small Towns) and CCM that are fighting against this. The Connecticut Fund for the Environment and the Audubon Society want stricter regulations. There is a bill before the State House that has been postponed so he said they are going to abide by the current permit. Mayor Vassel understands that this is an ongoing process and no one knows where it is going to go. A lot of Towns can't afford this. Steve Sopelak said it will cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year to maintain this once they get it up and going. There will be a lot of public outreach and public education. There was supposed to be an annual public hearing for this but that is out at this time. The biggest ongoing thing wanted will be some kind of pollution prevention for all of their detention ponds, whether they own them or not. This might require a Swirl Concentrator, which could cost \$50,000. Mayor Vassel said there will also probably be more monitoring of those. Councilor Kochanek asked again if they are thinking that this will cost \$350,000 by the end of it. Town Manager Scaife said he had forecasted that. This is an important program and it is important for the public to understand that this had begun in 1972 with the Clean Water Act. Eighty percent of surface water contamination comes from runoff and the direction is to go after the source. The mapping will be a base level step so that they will know where the outfalls and infalls are precisely. They need to have the mapping done for \$25,000 regardless but they don't have any good insight with regards to forecasting future years.

Councilor Moriarty asked if the mapping is going to be done off of site plans for different areas. Jim Sollmi said this would be field mapping. Steve Sopelak said this would have to be latitude and longitude according to the way it is written, which they physically would have to go out and get with a GPS. They would have to engage a consultant because the Town doesn't own a GPS that has that kind of accuracy. Councilor Moriarty said they might find issues during the process of the mapping period, especially for things back from the 1970's. There are new Zoning Regulations. He asked if they think that more regulations will be come up with, with the DEEP once these maps are done. Jim Sollmi said there are a lot more regulations and part of this is tied in with Zoning and Low Impact Development Regulations, which is Community Development's

second CIP. Councilor Moriarty said going forward that they have to make sure the Town isn't "footing the bill" for anything new. Mayor Vassel said a lot of things are going on now. Those are more voluntary (i.e. extra deep sumps in catch basins, etc.) but it sounds like this will be mandatory in the future. Steve Sopelak said the Town requires four foot deep sumps but there are a lot of expensive things with the Swirl Concentrators. They will have to file an annual report with the DEEP to show that measures are being taken to eliminate pollution. For illicit discharges, they will also have to figure out where that source of pollution is coming from.

Jim Sollmi referred to sidewalk repair and Rocky Hill has been using its grant from LoCIP on an annual basis. It is a \$100,000 expense and there is a \$100,000 revenue from the State. The Town has done some preliminary investigations of the conditions of the sidewalks and they are still evaluating what neighborhoods they will be working in. Councilor Moriarty thinks they had passed something years ago where if someone comes in with a site plan, they could pull the sidewalks out instead of patching them but they would have to pay for them. Mayor Vassel said there is a fund and Councilor Moriarty asked if any money is being generated out of that. Jim Sollmi said there have been sidewalk waivers but he doesn't know how much money is in that fund, which will be used to build new sidewalks. Mayor Vassel said as a developer that if they get a waiver, it doesn't mean they save money but it will go to a fund to be used somewhere else. Jim Sollmi said a developer either has to put the money into a fund after they are told how much it would cost to build a sidewalk or they have to build it. Mayor Vassel said there was some holdup on getting that fund started. He asked Kim Ricci (Town Planner) if this is in place because he knows she was working on it. Kim Ricci said they have this in a Town Ordinance. A two lot subdivision was recently approved where the construction of the sidewalks was waived and the fee will be coming to the Town. Mayor Vassel asked if this the only fee they have ever received and Kim Ricci said there have been others. Mayor Vassel asked if the sidewalk fund is a separate line item in the budget. Finance Director Mehr said this will be in a special revenue fund.

Jim Sollmi referred to the upgrade of their Zoning Regulations and the introduction of a small chapter on Low Impact Development Regulations. The same firm that recently did the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development has been contacted and they indicated they could do this for \$25,000. Mayor Vassel said this firm is also the same one that had done this the last time so they have all of the information.

Jim Sollmi referred to the RHPD's Impound Yard/Parking Expansion for \$55,000, which is mostly due to the cost of the materials. The cars used to be parked in the open area behind the RHPD and these have temporarily been moved to the Highway Garage around the fence but they properly belong behind the RHPD. A camera will be pointing in that direction. An eight foot fence will be put up and this has already been approved by the ZBA and the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Highway Department will be doing the work for this outside of an installer for the fence. Mayor Vassel asked the Councilors if they had any questions and they didn't.

Mayor Vassel referred to Information Technology. Russ Ford (Director of IT and Facilities) said he was requesting funds to replace their existing Central Link 3100 Phone System, which is really old. They are paying \$12 per basic line and they have three hundred of those. They are paying approximately \$57,000 to Frontier per year. They are also paying approximately \$10,000

per year to Staron Communications to manage and maintain the system. He is recommending VOIP (Voice Over IP), which is a modern phone system. He has looked at two different vendors and the cost for this would be around \$125,000 to \$130,000. The cost savings will come when they change out how they connect to the public service switch network of the phone company. They are going to buy a primary rate interface, which will handle twenty-three incoming calls. It will cost \$500 per month for that circuit. All of the existing phone numbers will be kept and these will be imported over for a small monthly charge. He is looking at reducing the Frontier bill to approximately \$8,000 per year and they will have to pay for the maintenance. He is estimating a savings of \$42,000 per year. This will give them roughly a three year payback on the purchase of this system. Mayor Vasel asked the Councilors if they had any questions and they didn't.

Mayor Vasel referred to Parks and Recreation. Lisa Zerio (Director of Parks and Recreation & Custodial Staff) said \$800,000 is being requested for the pool repair at Elm Ridge Park, of which \$250,00 is being requested for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and \$500,000 is being requested for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 so that there will be more of a balance to the taxpayer. This will replace the wading pool and the main pool. The main pool is almost fifty years old and all of the piping is original, except for pipes they fixed when they got rid of a confined space area due to safety. Some work has also been done around the skimmers. Some cracking in the main drain is being noticed. She passed around pictures to the Town Council that showed "before" and "after". The interior of the pool has to be painted every few years and this is sandblasted to get it down to its natural concrete after there are several layers of paint. The inside of the natural concrete is starting to have spalling. The concrete is pushing into the skimmers and it is starting to fail. They have patched where they can and the same thing is showing on the steps. They are also having the same issue with the deck. The goal is to have a pool built within a pool. They would go to a 3' to 5' pool compared to the 3' to 8' one they have now so this would save on water, as well as chemicals. They can keep their fencing and pump. All of the filters and plumbing would have to be new. The wading pool is 1'. She passed around some information on how this would be changed to water features. One option would be that this would start at 0' and go to 1', where there would be standing water in it and it would filter overnight. The other option is to have a dry pool, where there would be no standing water, and this would be an automated play area. They are going to look into which type would be most cost beneficial. If they get money to move forward on this, they will still be researching the options.

Deputy Mayor Bell asked Lisa Zerio if she has pursued any grant money for pool funding or if she is aware if there is any out there. Lisa Zerio said no. She isn't aware of any of this and she asked Olivia Jacobs (Aquatics Director) if she is, which she isn't. Lisa Zerio said they can look into this.

Councilor Moriarty asked about the facility itself that is part of the pool. Lisa Zerio said they have been keeping up with that. The floor there is being sandblasted and painted this May. There will also be new plastic partitions. The roof is relatively new. Four years ago, they got a new hot water heater. Mayor Vasel asked if that is for the facility. Councilor Moriarty said that is for the showers and the bathrooms. Mayor Vasel questioned if there would be a cost savings for an on demand hot water heater.

Councilor Casasanta referred to the addition of the Challenger Field at Elm Ridge Park. She asked Lisa Zerio if she is anticipating a problem with the traffic and she also asked her if she has ever considered having a sprinkler park instead of a pool. Lisa Zerio isn't anticipating a traffic problem and she said there would be a water feature instead of the wading pool. The other pool would be kept.

Mayor Vassel asked Lisa Zerio if she had any numbers with regards to the usage of the pool. Lisa Zerio said there were 6,775 users for nine weeks last year. Two hundred and fifty children per day and over seven weeks from the Summerscape Program are not included in that. Mayor Vassel asked Lisa Zerio how long of a timeframe she is seeing for the construction. Lisa Zerio said the pool would be shut down at the end of the season and construction would start. They would get everything done until winter hits and then finish everything in the spring to have this ready for the following summer (2017). Mayor Vassel asked Lisa Zerio if she had any pictures with her that showed the cracking and he asked if this happens every year. Lisa Zerio said she didn't have any pictures with her. The pool vendor came in last year and did some patching. Mayor Vassel asked Lisa Zerio if she thinks any problems with the cracking are due to the high water table that is there and she didn't think so. Mayor Vassel knew concrete repairs had been done there in the past and he asked what was repaired. Lisa Zerio said that was in 2000. The concrete all around the pool was done and she showed on a picture, what piping was changed.

Lisa Zerio referred to McVicar Field Turf Replacement – Grant. The original field had been put in, in 2004, and it was estimated that the field would have to be replaced in ten to twelve years. The Town Council had been putting money aside for this and they gave permission to Ray Carpentino (Economic Development Director) to go out to apply for a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant in October 2014. One was received for \$444,000. All of the submittals have been signed off on and Ray Carpentino will be shipping those back to Field Turf. The turf will be manufactured by May 20, 2015 and this will be onsite by June 20, 2015. The field will be done by August 7, 2015. Everything is being coordinated to make sure there will be no issues. Councilor Vargas asked if the grant will take care of the whole thing and Lisa Zerio said yes. Councilor Moriarty asked who will be installing this and Lisa Zerio said Field Turf. Councilor Moriarty asked if Field Turf will be lining this when they do this and he confirmed that the field is lined every year. Lisa Zerio said the perimeter lines will be manufactured in and the lines that aren't non-contiguous will get tufted in at the site. They won't need as much money for painting in future years. Councilor Vargas asked how long the current field lasted. Lisa Zerio said eleven years. Councilor Vargas asked if that is about right. Lisa Zerio said yes and that field gets a lot of use. Deputy Mayor Bell said there has been more information in the news about artificial turf and the safety of the children playing on it. She assumes that this meets the current specifications. Lisa Zerio said yes. There have been no proven facts so they feel confident the field is still safe. Mayor Vassel asked if the new field won't come apart. Lisa Zerio said no because everything is sewn now instead of glued. Mayor Vassel asked if the warranty on the new field will still be ten years and Lisa Zerio yes but she will double check. Mayor Vassel asked if a written warranty is given and Lisa Zerio said yes. Mayor Vassel asked if the current field is under warranty. Lisa Zerio then said she thinks the warranty might be for five or seven years but they never paid for the first couple of years when some seam repair was done. Mayor Vassel asked Walt Sykes (Crew Leader) if they could do minor repairs

until they get the new field and he said yes. Lisa Zerio said they have made some slight repairs but they have the same company that comes to help them paint the field for the spring.

Lisa Zerio referred to the RHHS Track Replacement – Capital Nonrecurring. It is being requested to have the track replaced at a cost of \$300,000. There had been \$200,000 in that account when they had gotten the STEAP Grant so they can put that towards the track now and \$100,000 would come from the other nonrecurring account. There had been \$300,000 that had been taken from the Special Rec Account and there was a balance of \$295,000 because the Town had donated \$5,000 to Little League to help out with the cost of the concession stand so this is where the \$100,000 would come out of. She then referred to the letter from Superintendent Dr. Zito. (Please see the First Attachment.) She passed out pictures of what Lane 4 on the track looked like as of yesterday. Councilor Vargas asked what the timing would be for this. Lisa Zerio said this can't be done until McVicar Field is. This track replacement would start in May of 2016 and will be finished in July of 2016. Councilor Vargas asked if the track team wouldn't be done by May. Lisa Zerio said they usually finish up mid-May but this will be towards the end of May if the Lacrosse Team makes the tournaments. Councilor Moriarty said he had walked on the track about five or six years ago and it was a nightmare then. Mayor Vasel asked if the past repairs that they were looking at in the pictures had been done in-house. Lisa Zerio said they have done this in-house and they have contracted this out too. Mayor Vasel asked who did the repairs last because it looks like some of them weren't sealed properly on the edges. Lisa Zerio said Dalton Contracting had done them and there were some issues. They are going to be getting another company to come in to just do the major crack filling to keep it safe until it can officially be closed down. Mayor Vasel asked if everyone is positive that there is no conduit running under this field so that they won't have to dig this up again if they do this. Lisa Zerio said yes. Mayor Vasel said he was a little confused about the letter they just got with regards to seven of the eight upcoming spring meets being scheduled at away venues because it then stated that four would normally be held at home. Lisa Zerio said normally four meets out of the eight would be held at home but seven meets will be held away. Mayor Vasel said the way this is written is a little bit confusing. Councilor Moriarty asked Walt Sykes what the condition of the base is under the track and he asked if it is possible that they could find some unforeseen conditions. Walt Sykes said that is a possibility but this won't be known until a couple of test pits are done. The vendors who have been out there are saying the base is good and just the first ½" to 1" is bad. Lisa Zerio said the prices they got assume there is a base issue. Councilor Vargas asked if any borings will be done and Lisa Zerio said they will. Councilor Vargas asked if this will cost \$300,000 without the borings being done. Lisa Zerio said the vendors still feel confident with this amount if there is an issue with the base. Mayor Vasel said from looking at the pictures that it doesn't look like there is any base failure and this is more just from them being in New England. Councilor Moriarty told Mayor Vasel that he would talk to him later about some things with regards to when this had been installed.

Lisa Zerio referred to the Challenger Field at Elm Ridge Park – Grant Funds. The Town Council on December 15, 2014 had approved for them to get the grant for this. The Town Council on April 6, 2015 approved for the BSC Group to be hired. There will be a project kickoff meeting next week. The Engineers will be doing the site assessment from next week until mid-May. The design services and all of the permitting from the Town will start from mid-May until mid-June. They will hopefully go out to bid in June/July for construction services. The construction

process will start in July and continue until winter hits. This will start up again in the spring and the field will hopefully be opened in 2016. Mayor Vassel asked if there will be something for this during the opening day for Little League. Lisa Zerio said some ceremonial groundbreaking will be done on that day and she will get the Town Council the information as soon as she has it.

Lisa Zerio referred to the Resurface Elm Ridge Basketball Courts – Capital Nonrecurring. The \$50,000 for this is part of the \$300,000 that is now down to \$295,000 minus the \$100,000 for the track. The Town Engineers and Walt Sykes were met with and she said they are confident about the amount of \$50,000. This would be a full reconstruction of the basketball courts and not resurfacing. Lisa Zerio said she is going to be writing a letter to Town Manager Scaife stating these basketball courts need to be shut down. The goal is that this is the same area where a parking lot is going to be redone for the Challenger Field and where they will be building the field. When Geotech is out there, all of the test borings will be done because the Architects and Engineers know that the Town is going for a new basketball court. This area can also be used as a staging area for the equipment once the project starts. The contractor who gets the work for the Challenger Field can possibly do an add alternate for the basketball courts but the money for this won't come out of the money for the field. She thinks the Town will get a better price because the contractor won't have to mobilize again. They will already be out there doing the pavement of the parking lot, etc. Lisa Zerio passed around pictures of the basketball courts. Deputy Mayor Bell asked what the timing of the proposal would be. Lisa Zerio said this would be in coordination with the Architects for the Challenger Field so to her, this would be towards the end of the construction of the field. Deputy Mayor Bell confirmed that they are talking about next summer. Lisa Zerio said right and she mentioned that the basketball courts are heavily used. Deputy Mayor Bell asked if there is any way to incorporate this into the Challenger Field grant. Lisa Zerio said they had tried but the State said no. Councilor Vargas asked if the basketball courts would be shut down now. Lisa Zerio said she would like to have the baskets taken down. Marilyn Ridolfo asked Lisa Zerio if she has applied for any grants at all through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Lisa Zerio said she has for other programs. Marilyn Ridolfo told Lisa Zerio that she might want to consider applying again because she knows of a well-known businessman who had passed away and there is a fund set up for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for projects that pertain to Wethersfield's needs so she said they might want to see if anyone in Rocky Hill has passed away and has set up a fund with this Foundation. Councilor Moriarty asked if there are still basketball courts at Moser School. Lisa Zerio said there are basketball courts at Moser School, West Hill School and Rocky Hill High School. Councilor Moriarty asked how much of the Skate Park is used and he asked if that could be downsized if they need extra parking. Lisa Zerio said parking will be added and there are people who have a vested interest in the Skate Park so she doesn't want to take that away completely. Councilor Moriarty said he wasn't saying completely and he also mentioned that there is a huge old tennis court that is old that doesn't look like it is used totally. He is trying to create more parking. Lisa Zerio said the Architects and Engineers will have to do the parking study. A playground will also be built under the Challenger Field funds and people, who are in wheelchairs, will be able to get from the parking lot to the playground area.

Mayor Vassel referred to the Police Department. Chief Custer referred to the one item that the RHPD has on CIP, which is Vehicles – Police 3 year lease for \$51,915 for the purchase of four Police vehicles. This amount will be for the first of three payments. They are looking to

purchase two Ford Interceptor utility vehicles, which will be line cars that are all-wheel drive, as well as two Ford Fusions that will also be all-wheel drive but unmarked. The RHPD has been diligently working with Town Manager Scaife to right-size their fleet. Chief Custer said they noticed that a lot of the RHPD's vehicles are ten years or older. They are trying to eliminate some of these older cars, reduce the number and have newer vehicles in their fleet. They are planning on removing four vehicles that are 2003 ones if they bring these four vehicles in. This will be the first step in righting the overall fleet inventory. Councilor Moriarty said they used to buy three vehicles one year and then two the next year in the past. None were purchased last year. He told the Town Council that they should just pay for these four vehicles outright instead of doing a three year lease for \$153,000. Deputy Mayor Bell asked what the cost of each car would be if they were to purchase it. Chief Custer said the amount given also represents the equipment that will be put into the vehicles. Finance Director Mehr said a cruiser that is fully equipped usually costs about \$45,000 and the unmarked vehicles with their equipment would cost about \$31,000. Councilor Vargas asked if the vehicles are going to be 2015 or 2016 ones. Chief Custer said 2015. Councilor Vargas confirmed that they will be replacing 2003 vehicles and Chief Custer said that is correct. Councilor Vargas told Councilor Moriarty that this is more than three years. Councilor Moriarty said they should be replacing things sooner. Councilor Vargas asked Chief Custer if these vehicles are going to be removed completely so they aren't just sitting someplace when he is saying they are going to be taken offline. Chief Custer said the RHPD vehicles that are cycled off are turned over to Glenn Parent (Director of Public Works) and he makes an evaluation as to whether these are worthy enough to keep in service. Town Manager Scaife said the answer is yes and the RHPD has already turned four vehicles in so they are reducing the fleet. They have recycled some other vehicles that are in worse shape. They will be getting rid of these four vehicles. Councilor Vargas confirmed that these vehicles will be going someplace else after they go to the Highway Department area. Town Manager Scaife said yes. Some of the vehicles have been taken and moved to other areas to reduce that particular vehicle but they are getting a net reduction in vehicles. Councilor Kochanek asked what it will cost per year to lease the vehicles above the original cost if they are going to pay \$51,000 for three years. Finance Director Mehr said they are guesstimating a 4% interest charge, which will be \$1,700 per car. Councilor Kochanek asked if they would save \$7,000 if they bought these outright. Finance Director Mehr said yes but they would put up more capital. Councilor Kochanek said this would cost \$145,000 instead of \$153,000. Finance Director Mehr said this would be for the four vehicles. Councilor Kochanek imagines that there will be other replacements coming online next year that they might also lease. Chief Custer said most likely. Councilor Kochanek said the \$51,000 this year will become \$102,000 next year and then this will become \$153,000 the third year for the four vehicles. Finance Director Mehr said yes if the leasing program is followed. Councilor Kochanek said it makes sense to purchase these outright because they will be saving \$7,000 on each vehicle. Finance Director Mehr said they are hoping to get back to the purchasing plan next year so that they can buy at least two patrol vehicles per year, if not three. Councilor Moriarty told Town Manager Scaife he had said the other night that one-tenth of a mill is \$199,000 so he said they would be talking about less than one-tenth of a mill if they had a number of \$100,000.

Mayor Vasel asked Chief Custer how many miles are on the 2003 vehicles that the RHPD is using daily. Chief Custer said those vehicles have over 150,000 miles on them. Mayor Vasel asked Chief Custer if his guesstimate is that the vehicles go for 150,000 miles. Chief Custer said



the 2003 vehicles are not line cars but they are detective vehicles. Mayor Vasel asked what kind of miles can be expected out of the line vehicles. Chief Custer asked for how long of a period. Mayor Vasel said whatever the oldest vehicle is. Chief Custer said they cycle vehicles out when they get between 150,000 to 180,000 miles. Town Manager Scaife said all of the new vehicles come with an hour meter because it is usually how long the engine is running in the Police world, as well as in the Fire Department world. The driver of suspension is when the frame condition and the age, etc. of the vehicles are looked at. They are strongly focused on recycling some of these vehicles every year so that they don't find themselves behind the curve like they are now and the issue is a financial decision. These four vehicles were proposed this way because they are trying to minimize the tax rate knowing that some other increases are being looked at. What is really important is that they get the four vehicles, of which they will be comfortable either leasing or buying outright. They will be back next year and the year after that so that they get on a good cycle. There is some residual value when these vehicles are sold if they aren't run into the ground. A critical component is what is done when a vehicle breaks down at the worst of times and the ramifications to that in trying to serve the public. He thinks one of the reasons that the RHPD has hung onto such a volume of vehicles is because of an over-dependency maybe of having spare vehicles ready when there is a fleet that has a high breakdown rate and they need to get away from this. Mayor Vasel said he had spoken to one of the Police Officers and this has more to do with technology too. The older vehicles have a hard time in the snow. Town Manager Scaife said the all-season tire runs well all year. Councilor Moriarty asked how they have found the new style vehicles to be as far as maintenance, etc. Chief Custer said no major problems whatsoever have been experienced.

**B. Public Safety Referendum**

Mayor Vasel referred to the Public Safety Referendum – Nov. 2015 - \$2.435 Million (for the RHPD). Chief Custer said the RHPD has four items under this. There is Dispatch and Radio Equipment for \$1,900,000, which they feel is the most critical item. They have a sixteen year old radio system now and the units they have are not in production any longer. Motorola has advised them that they will no longer support the radio equipment as of December 2018. The RHPD is proposing a radio and console upgrade to a conventional P25 System, which is a national standard for public safety communications. This will tie into their new Microwave project and will include the infrastructure replacement at their four radio sites in Town, as well as the “guts” in the console. The exception will be the console furniture. They would like to get started on this before December of 2018. Councilor Moriarty said they had a discussion approximately two years ago about Regional Dispatch and he asked if that is off the table now because that was almost going to be a mandate and he would hate to put \$1,900,000 in this if there is that. Chief Custer thinks that has died. Mayor Vasel believes that dispatch is for EMS, the Police and fire so there are three lifesaving services there. Chief Custer said that is truly the heart center of the community.

Chief Custer referred to the HVAC Upgrade for Dispatch Center & Equipment Room for \$50,000. The Dispatch Center has had mold problems due to excessive moisture. The present air conditioning system is the house one. People in the other offices are freezing when more cool air is being called for in the Dispatch Center. A standalone HVAC system is being advocated for this. This would eliminate the mold and moisture issues too. Mayor Vasel said he and

Councilor Moriarty had discussed this on Monday evening because there is some concern about there maybe being underground moisture there. Mayor Vasel said he had visited the RHPD last week for Autism Awareness and the Dispatch Center is hot. Chief Custer said the door has to be left open oftentimes and that becomes a security issue. Councilor Moriarty said humidity is fixed by raising the temperature and the Dispatch Center needs HVAC but he said it is weird that they have such high moisture with such high temperatures. He spoke to Jim Sollmi and they did have someone in there so he will be curious to see if this is fixed.

Chief Custer referred to the request for an Emergency Generator Upgrade for \$145,000. This generator, which is around eighteen to twenty years old, supports RHPD Headquarters and it includes the Dispatch Center. The good news is that the generator doesn't have a lot of hours on it but that isn't the proper generator that had been spec'd out for that building. Councilor Moriarty confirmed that the generator would be replaced for \$145,000 and Mayor Vasel said that is a good deal. Jim Sollmi said the entire generator would be replaced and this would be for the entire building. They currently can't keep the building air conditioned in the summer and they are in trouble if there is a power outage in the summer. Mayor Vasel understands that the generator might not have been hooked up properly. Jim Sollmi said there are 500 Amp fuses in the circuit board for 600 Amp service. Councilor Moriarty asked if the existing generator is worth anything and if they can sell that. Jim Sollmi said there should be some salvage value. Mayor Vasel told everyone to keep in mind that when the generator is needed for the RHPD is the time that people need the Police to respond to them because when there is a catastrophic power loss then that means something bad is going on in Town. Councilor Moriarty asked Finance Director Mehr if the Town still gets money when the generators are run in the summer when there is a high need. Finance Director Mehr said this is basically done at RHPD and the Town Hall. The Town gets a check from CL & P but it has to switch off when it is told to.

Mayor Vasel referred to the Detention Cell Repairs/Renovation (quote pending analysis). Chief Custer said \$340,000 is being requested but he thinks this will be a lower once they tighten this up in terms of research. There are five detention cells in RHPD Headquarters. This area had been left out when the building was completely gutted and remodeled in 2003 due to what the cost would have been to do that. There have been plumbing issues in those cells and two are presently out of service. There is also a potential for liability because that area is sixty years old. There is old bar construction, which people have tried to harm themselves on in the last two years. The beds are sharp steel ones and there are also grates on the walls for ventilation. Years ago, the Architects had identified four or five items in each of the cell blocks that present a grave concern. Chief Custer thinks this is something that needs to be done as soon as possible.

Mayor Vasel referred to the Fire Department – Public Safety Referendum - Nov. 2015 - \$3.843 Million. Chief Garrahy said he wanted to talk about the Apparatus Replacement Plan. (Please see the Second Attachment.) The RHFD started recognizing that the fleet was becoming outdated and they needed to create a document to identify and assess the condition of the existing fleet, as well as develop a replacement plan that is manageable. The outcome, after having numerous meetings and reviewing all of the factors, is a five year replacement plan, which will also allow the RHFD to right-size the fleet. Fire protection will be provided to Rocky Hill at the start of the replacement plan, during it and at the conclusion of it. This will be in a safe, efficient and effective manner like always. He referred to Page 3 of the Apparatus Replacement Plan.

This has a matrix that evaluates the current condition of each piece of apparatus. Many of the vehicles have outlived their lifespan. A concept change is also being proposed as part of the plan in the way incidents are responded to. The RHFD presently responds in large capital apparatus with supplemental manpower. The new concept will rely on the apparatus being able to multifunction, as well as they will be able to supplement the response with smaller utility vehicles. He started going over the Apparatus Replacement Plan when Deputy Mayor Bell said they were missing Page 2, Page 4 and Page 6 of this paperwork. Mayor Vassel asked for a motion to have a five minute recess so that the Councilors could receive the missing pages.

Councilor Moriarty made a motion to take a five minute recess at 7:26 p.m. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to come out of recess at 7:34 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted unanimously by those present.

Chief Garrahy referred to the matrix on Page 3 again and he also went over the concept change again. Mayor Vassel asked Chief Garrahy to explain what a Quint-Style Aerial Ladder Truck is. Chief Garrahy said all of the definitions are on the last two pages of the plan. He then went over the five year plan that is on Page 4 and Page 5. Mayor Vassel asked about the Fire Police and he asked for it to be clarified as to what they do. Chief Garrahy said there are Fire Police, who are not certified firefighters but a great support group, in Station 1 and Station 3. They perform numerous functions on the fireground (i.e. crowd management and monitor the firefighters' accountability when they are in structures, etc.). Councilor Vargas asked what the net cost of Year 1's proposed fleet modification being \$938,000 means. Chief Garrahy said Deputy Chief Renstrom had had the fleet appraised. The value of the apparatus being traded in was taken (approximately \$402,000) and was subtracted from the cost of the Telesquirt, the medium duty Rescue Truck, the two Ford F-350s, as well as the two Fire Police vehicles. Councilor Vargas referred to the matrix on Page 3 and she asked if vehicles are being turned in that don't exceed the life expectancy in addition to ones that do. Chief Garrahy said yes. Councilor Vargas asked if she would have to figure out what they are taking as their appraised value in order to come up with the dollar amount and net it against the cost. Chief Garrahy said yes. He also mentioned how the RHFD had a \$50,000 request in their CIP last year for a study to modify Station 1 to widen the bays but this has been removed because they have been able to find a Quint-Style Ladder Truck that will fit in those bays. They are already finding savings as they are getting into this plan. At the conclusion of this plan, the RHFD will have right-sized the fleet and will be operating with an online fleet of two Quint-Style Ladder Trucks, three Engines and a Rescue Truck. ISO requires a minimum of two Ladder Trucks and three Engines for the Town so this plan can only strengthen their rating. The total approximate cost of this plan is \$3,614,000. Federal EPA costs fluctuate each year though so there is no prediction as to what these will be in the next year. The dollar amount just given doesn't include the anticipated savings that will come from the reduction in required testing, inspection and maintenance on all of the vehicles and on the equipment. It would cost approximately \$6,250,000 if they were to replace the fleet as it is. This would be \$2,636,000 above the capital expenditures in this Apparatus Replacement Plan. The RHFD began to strategize on financing options once they completed the Apparatus Replacement Plan and the concept.

Mayor Vasel asked the Councilors if they had any questions. Councilor Kochanek said he had a comment. This Apparatus Replacement Plan will put them in a position to stay ahead of the curve and it rights a lot of wrongs that have been done along the years. They will be making some serious dollars by reselling existing apparatus before it becomes worthless. The alternative, as pointed out by Chief Garrahy, would be quite more expensive. Councilor Kochanek thinks this is a good plan.

Chief Garrahy referred to the Air Pack Replacements – (20% reduction from original plan). This won't be found in the Apparatus Replacement Plan. They had begun the air pack upgrade last year with \$162,000 in CIP. The current request costs \$486,000 over three budget years for the replacement of seventy-two air packs. These air packs can be reduced to fifty-two with the right-sizing of the fleet. They will need \$229,000 instead of \$324,000.

Mayor Vasel asked the Councilors if they had any questions. Deputy Mayor Bell said two issues had come up last year when they had talked about the air packs. One was availability and the other was about the new standard that was going to be approved. She asked if the approval has taken place. Chief Garrahy said the standard has been approved. The delivery time for these will be six to eight months. He was surprised to see that there has been an 8% increase within the last year.

Councilor Vargas asked Town Manager Scaife if five years are being looked at for the whole referendum or how long they are looking at borrowing for. Town Manager Scaife said it will be more than five years. Finance Director Mehr said the referendums will probably be bundled together at a certain point in time because they have a number of referendums they will be borrowing monies for. This will most likely be driven by the Rocky Hill High School project so this will probably be financed over twenty years in order for them to save on issuance costs.

C. Discussion re: 2015-16 Proposed Budget

Deputy Mayor Bell thinks they have a lot to digest and she thinks they will need to get together again at some point in time. She didn't know how they wanted to handle the scheduling of this. Town Manager Scaife said the Board of Education will be presenting their budget on April 20, 2015 and there will be a public hearing for the budget on April 27, 2015. There will be three more weeks after that where they can have follow-up discussions before the decision date of May 18, 2015. Mayor Vasel asked them if they wanted to digest what they have. Deputy Mayor Bell said definitely and she didn't want to take action this evening. Councilor Vargas would like to see what happens at the Board of Education's presentation and then look at the whole budget in general. Councilor Casasanta suggested that the Councilors submit their vacation time to Town Manager Scaife within the next day or two so he can put a game plan together for potential meeting dates. Councilor Casasanta complimented Town Manager Scaife on the way they had people present their CIP and she thought the budget presentation this evening was really streamlined. Councilor Casasanta also complimented Town Manager Scaife on the strategy change in the budget presentation. Mayor Vasel said this was a new way of doing things. It was clear and straightforward, as well as it led to fewer questions, which the Town Council appreciated.

Adjournment

Councilor Vargas made a motion to adjourn the budget workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted unanimously by those present.

As there was no further discussion, the budget workshop was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth